

**FILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" UNDER 37 CFR 1.10**

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Date of Deposit

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Art Unit: 3754

ROBERT G. RANI

Examiner: N. Khaira

APPLICATION NO: 10/672,318

FILED: SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

FOR: CLOSURE DEVICE FOR FLEXIBLE POUCHES

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

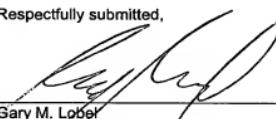
**PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Sir:

The Office Action of December 4, 2006 has a shortened statutory time set to expire on March 4, 2007. A three-month extension is hereby requested pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136(a).

Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis in the amount of \$1020 for payment of the extension fee. An additional copy of this paper is here enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR §1.17 which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Novartis  
Corporate Intellectual Property  
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Date: June 1, 2007